

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 056194  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF:RMOOSE:WES  
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY MAPUTO NIACT IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 056194

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR FROM DICK MOOSE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2-3

TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK,

SUBJECT: RHODESIA RESPONSE TO MACHEL

REF: MAPUTO 261

1. YOU CAN TELL MACHEL THAT THE USG REAFFIRMED ITS  
SUPPORT FOR THE ANGLOAMERICAN PLAN ON FEBRUARY 21 AND  
AGAIN TODAY, MARCH 3 (IN DEPARTMENTAL PRESS BRIEFINGS).  
YOU SHOULD PROBABLY ALSO TELL MACHEL, QUITE FRANKLY,  
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THAT WHILE WE SUPPORT THE AAP, WE HAVE NOT FIGURED OUT  
HOW WE CAN PURSUE THE PLAN IN THE FACE OF THE SALISBURY  
AGREEMENT AND THE LATEST PF STATEMENTS.

2. WHILE THE SAFEST COURSE MAY BE TO LEAVE THE MATTER  
THERE (I WOULD NOT WANT TO LEAD MACHEL ON, GIVEN THE  
UNCERTAINTY OF FUTURE DECISIONS HERE), YOU MIGHT, AT

YOUR DISCRETION, TRY OUT ON HIM THE FOLLOWING IDEA WHICH IS ENTIRELY THE PRODUCT OF MY OWN WORRIED MIND:

3. RATHER THAN VIEWING MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE AS CAPTIVES OF SMITH AND TRYING TO LURE THEM AWAY FROM THEIR DEAL WITH HIM (AND UNLIKELY FEAT AND ONE WHICH, IN ANY EVENT, WOULD OPEN US TO A CHARGE OF MEDDLING), WE SHOULD EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITIES OF USING MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE TO PUT

PRESSURE ON SMITH. IF ONE CONCEIVES OF SMITH AS BEING BOUND BY THE FUZZY DEAL WHICH HE SOLD TO THE INTERNAL NATIONALISTS, SOME INTERESTING POSSIBILITIES EMERGE. WHEREAS SMITH UNDOUBTEDLY EXPECTS TO EXPLOIT THE AMBIGUITY OF THE SALISBURY ACCORDS IN ORDER TO INSURE THE RETENTION OF WHITE CONTROL, MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE COULD INSIST UPON DEFINING THE POWERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SO AS TO DENY SMITH THE EXERCISE DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD OF POWERS WHICH ARE PRESENTLY BEYOND THE LIMITED AUTHORITY ACCORDED THE COUNCIL UNDER THE SALISBURY AGREEMENTS. IF MUZOREWA AND SMITH WERE TO PURSUE SUCH A TACTIC, THEY COULD FORCE SMITH INTO A CHOICE BETWEEN TRULY RELINQUISHING POWER AND APPEARING TO GO BACK ON HIS OWN EARLIER AGREEMENTS.

4. THE PROBLEM WITH THIS APPROACH IS WHETHER EITHER MUZOREWA OR SITHOLE HAS THE GUTS OR INCLINATION TO PLAY SECRET

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SUCH A HAND (THEY MAY WELL BE EVERY BIT AS POWER HUNGRY AS THE PF). MACHEL MIGHT EXHORT THE INTERNAL NATIONALISTS TO UP THE ANTE ON SMITH, POINTING OUT THAT THEIR PRESENT COURSE WILL LEAD TO THEIR ETERNAL DAMNATION BY OTHER AFRICANS AND TO THE CERTAIN DESTRUCTION OF WHAT THEY THEMSELVES ARE SEEKING--TO SAY NOTHING OF THE DIRE 'CONSEQUENCES WHICH WOULD ENSUE FOR ZAMBIA, MOZAMBIQUE, AND BOTSWANA. MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE COULD TURN THE TABLES ON SMITH IF THEY WERE TO STIFFEN THEIR TERMS. IF SMITH REFUSES THEIR DEMANDS THAT HE RELINQUISH CONTROL DURING THE TRANSITION, HIS SETTLEMENT WOULD THUS BE EXPOSED IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD FOR THE FRAUD WHICH IT UNDOUBTEDLY IS. MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE WOULD THEREBY GAIN GREAT STATURE IN THE EYES OF THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE AND INDEED, OF ALL AFRICA. SUCH AN OUTCOME WOULD REOPEN THE WAY TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AAP. FINALLY, MACHEL MIGHT ARGUE TO MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE THAT THEY SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT THEIR CAPITULATION TO SMITH WILL PROBABLY PRECIPITATE AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT IN NAMIBIA.

5. IT IS A LONG SHOT, BUT IT MAY BE WORTH A TRY. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PDEV, RH, UK, (MACHEL, SAMORA)  
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